As regards veterinary hospitals, I am afraid it is not possible to have a veterinary hospital in every town. But there is one less than five miles from Changanachery, at Tiruvalla and there is another at Kottayam, about five miles away. So, really, it is not very inconvenient for the people to go either to Kottayam or to Tiruvalla. But since you specially wish it, the Director of Agriculture will arrange for the Veterinary Inspector either at Tiruvalla or at Kottayam to visit Changanachery more frequently.

The member said that the Chalakkal canal would be useful to the paddy fields in the east and would improve their drainage. He pointed out also that the cutting of the canal would enable the tapioca cultivators on the opposite shore to get the earth required by them besides removing the sand accumulating in the fields.

DEWAN: The necessary investigation will be made.

The member said that the Changanachery town might be five miles away from Kottayam and Tiruvalla but that there were few cattle in the town and that the veterinary hospital was required by the people to the east of Changanachery.

DEWAN: How many miles away is your place from Tiruvalla ?

The member said the distance would be twelve miles.

DEWAN: The Director of Agriculture will enquire about it.

53. Department of Industries.

MR. N. MADHAVAN NAIR (*Member, Trivandrum taluk, Group II*) spoke about the inefficient working of the Department of Industries and the desirability of making it really useful to the public Fond hopes were once centred in the future of that department as tending to enhance the material prosperity of the State. But the working of the department for about a decade had almost frustrated those hopes and people had begun to doubt whether the continuance of the department would be productive of any good whatsoever. The chief duties entrusted to the department were the following :—

(1) To investigate the possibilities of and organise new industries.

(2) To start small industries like the manufacture of matches and pencils for purposes of demonstration.

(3) To investigate the raw materials available in the forests of the State for industrial purposes.

(4) To revive suitable cottage industries.

(5) To enlighten the people in regard to industrial matters by lectures, bulletins, etc.

(6) To help generally in the industrial progress of the State and submit proposals from time to time.

On a careful examination, it would be seen that except the last item on which the people had no reliable information, the department had failed to achieve any of the objects mentioned above. No consistent policy was being adopted by the department. In the year 1095, an essential oil factory and a jaggery factory were established at Ponmudi and Tiruvalla, respectively. Both the factories were found to be unsuccessful ventures and were abolished in 1096 on the recommendation of the Director of Industries. Again, in 1095, a bamboo depôt was opened at Alwaye with the object of encouraging the basket-making industry by the introduction of new models. Another depôt, called the screw-pine depôt, was opened at Mavelikara in the same year to develop the mat-weaving industry and introduce the manufacture of hats, money bags, fancy boxes, etc. Similarly, a weaving depôt was started at Eraniel for imparting instruction to the weavers of the locality in improved methods of weaving and design. All those depôts were abolished in subsequent years having been found to be failures. Besides, there was at one time a Shellac Branch in the Industries Department under the charge of a Shellac Assistant. That too was abolished after a lot of money had been spent over it.

The Director of Industries who knew, while he was the State Geologist, that there were no minerals of economic importance in South Travancore

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subsequently made the Government purchase a boring drill at an enormous cost to conduct an experiment at Mangamalai in the Velimala Reserve already experimented upon by distinguished geologists like Mr. G. H. Tipper. The results of the experiment were not made known to the public and the boring drill itself was handed over to the Public Works Department.

Thus, the policy of the department consisted in taking up some industries, attempting a few, nibbling a little and throwing them away. The Director was trying his hand at some new industries like ink-making, nickel-plating and umbrella-assembling. The last mentioned one hardly required the ingenuity of the department. It was a waste of money to introduce commonplace trivialities as cottage industries. There was no regular programme of work and industries were attempted according to the fancies and tastes of the Head of the Department for the time being without looking into actual conditions. The result was a drain on the State coffers.

The department was over-staffed and under-worked. Most of the hands were superfluous. The Experts had no work to do in proportion to the salary drawn by them. The Industrial Engineer was also the Chief Boiler Inspector. His chief item of work was the inspection of boilers, which really ought to be done by the Public Works Department. There was thus no necessity for his place. Although the Tanning Expert was working for some years, an enquiry into the working of the tannery would reveal that it had not produced any fruitful result. There must be full work for the establishment if it should be run as a Government factory and there should also be facilities for obtaining raw hides. As it was, the services of the Tanning Expert were of no use. The Industrial Chemist should be engaged in conducting original investigations of a useful character instead of wasting his energies on nickel-plating and ink-manufacture. The raw materials produced in the State were being sent to the Imperial Institute of Science, London, for analysis and a sum of Rs. 1,600 was being spent annually for contribution to that Institute. An Industrial Chemist was therefore superfluous. The Textile Expert's work was confined to the weaving department. The weaving industry was progressing well even before the advent of the Expert whose attention was mainly devoted to the supervision of certain schools which were satisfactorily managed under the control of the Education Department. In view of the above, the places of the Experts and their assistants could be abolished and the money spent on them utilised for the promotion of useful cottage industries.

The Geological Department, which formed a section of the Industries Department, had not justified its existence. It had not discovered any mineral useful for the establishment of any new industry ; but new industries had sprung up as a result of the discoveries made by private enterprises. In the Quinquennial Report of 1921 of the Geological Survey of India, mention had been made of the existence of a few minerals in Travancore. Such minerals were exhibited in the Museum, but nothing was mentioned about them in the Annual Reports of the Industries Department. Although there was no separate State Geologist, the Director of Industries had an Assistant Geologist drawing a decent salary. His post was unnecessary and should be abolished.

The Carpentry School, Quilon, did not serve any useful purpose, except providing employment to the staff of that school. Pupils trained there found it difficult to get a job and earn their livelihood. They were trained in the western system of carpentry with the aid of costly machinery and the school was not intended to develop the art of carpentry on cheap lines. The School of Arts was deteriorating since the date of its transfer from the Education to the Industries Department. The several items of work there were done with the aid of machinery worked by steam engines and the training given there to the apprentices was not of such a nature as to open a source of living to them. The Industries Department did nothing to make the institution more useful to the common folk. The Sri Mulam Technical School was training only a few students in some subjects of civil engineering. The school was not popular and hence the paucity of students there. There was no necessity for the school or at any rate for its control being vested in the Industries Department. The above schools and the Commercial School, Alleppey, and the S. M. R. V. School, Nagercoil, should be located at the Capital, constituted

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as a Central Technical Institute and placed under the control of the Education Department. The travelling allowance given to the Director of Industries and his staff would then be a saving.

Some costly instruments got down for the use of the department were lying useless for want of work. The crucible furnace for glass-making, the gonometer for measuring crystal angles and the tapioca-slicing machine and several photographic cameras were instances in point.

The department was lacking in propaganda work such as lectures in different localities, publication of leaflets and bulletins, magic lantern shows, etc. Without propaganda work, the department would not become popular.

Again, the department had no fixed notion or scheme about new industries or the development of existing ones. It was not able to propose any basic industry around which others would spring up *e. g.*, sulphuric acid or sodium carbonate. Cottage industries were not properly encouraged and no new industry had been introduced.

In 1097, the Government had remarked that the policy of the department was one of drift; and, in the Dewan's Opening Address to the twenty-second session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, it was stated that the agency to educate the people in the benefits of a subsidiary occupation had yet to be organised and in short a re-organisation of the department was imperative. The state of affairs had not, since improved. The department was reckless in spending money. Lack of system, method, care, organisation, initiative resourcefulness and earnestness had become characteristic features of the department and a thorough overhauling had become absolutely necessary. As a preliminary step, the member prayed for the appointment of a committee, with a non-official majority and consisting of experienced business-men, to enquire into the working of the department and chalk out a definite programme and lay down a fixed policy of work.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhavan Nair, I am very glad you have given me this opportunity of stating the views of the Government in regard to the all-important question of industries in Travancore. The Director of Industries and I have repeatedly given careful thought to the subject and pursued many lines of enquiry in the matter of developing the industries of the country, and if we found that any line of enquiry did not offer a reasonable hope of success, we dropped it. You are no doubt aware, as all people who think and observe are aware, that all new enterprises and fresh ventures pass through certain distinct phases. Firstly, you have the stage of exploration; secondly, you have the stage of investigation; thirdly, you have the stage of inculcation; and fourthly, you have the stage of application. In Travancore, I am happy to say without any hesitation, there is an unostentatious worker in the Director of Industries who is doing his duties in spite of much cold water thrown upon his head and has carried things beyond the stage of exploration and the stage of investigation. He came to the stage of inculcation and there he met with apathy and discouragement. Inculcation is possible only when there is responsiveness. It is no good establishing a tannery school or an industrial school or a carpentry school or anything of that sort, if the lessons inculcated there are not availed of. Students only come, spend their time, acquire knowledge, and when it comes to get on to the next stage of application, they do nothing. I would not say 'nothing' because many who pass through the inculcatory institutions seem to spend their time in seeking Government appointments. If there is anything that could depress and discourage an enthusiast, it is this absence of responsiveness. For that, I have many a time thought out the reasons, and I think the reasons lie here. Firstly, the people here do not like taking the initiative in any new venture. Secondly, they are lacking in capital. And, thirdly, even if they overcome these two difficulties, they are completely at a loss in finding markets for their wares. It is with reference to this that, in my speech which you quoted, I said:—"The necessary machinery for initiating new schemes is non-existent in the country; the agency to educate the people in the benefits of a subsidiary occupation has yet to be organised; above all, adequate arrangements for providing distributing centres and finding markets for the sale of finished products must be brought into being".

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It is my opinion that, unless we have central co-ordinating and distributing bodies,—agencies if you like—and market-finding agencies, our people will not be able to avail themselves of the benefits of the inculcatory institutions. It may be that we made an initial blunder in embarking too ambitiously on the ready-made factories and institutions. My own idea is that better results might have been achieved if we began in a small way, first satisfied ourselves that there were grounds for advancement and then seen to its development. Instead of that, we proceeded to establish tanneries and various other industries which you have mentioned and there we stopped.

Then there is another aspect of the question. The Director of Industries has shown me clearly, and I am myself personally convinced, that if we run these several institutions as Government commercial ventures directed to the sole purpose of profiting the Government or if we run them by Government officials for the benefit of the public exchequer, it will be perfectly easy to make the institutions successful. But there is a wider object in view. The State does not want to embark on commercial enterprises and compete with private individuals. It merely desires to point the way and to hold out the hand of encouragement. How all this is going to turn out, I cannot say for the present; but I can only give this assurance that with the able assistance of the Director of Industries we have now come to certain practical schemes which will, I hope, come into operation fairly quick. And then if we find there is that responsiveness which is absolutely necessary, we will pursue the lines of agency and so foster true growth of the industry. But without sympathetic response from the people of Travancore, these must of necessity be disastrous failures.

54. Industrial Development of the Parur taluk.

MR. LONA OUSEPH (*Member, Parur taluk*) referred to the growing unemployment and the consequent communal differences in the State. In his opinion, the only remedy for unemployment and the evils connected with it was the development of industries. There were, fortunately, facilities in Travancore for the opening of various industries. In the Parur taluk, for example, cocoanut cultivation was carried on on a large scale. It would be a great benefit to the people if a factory be established there for conducting any industry connected with coir yarn, which was produced in large quantities in that taluk. Similar industrial factories could be opened in other taluks. But people in his taluk were either too poor or too reluctant to start any such industrial concerns. If, however, the Government considered that they could not open a factory at Parur, the people might at least be given industrial loans on proper security as in the case of agricultural loans. Such loans should bear no interest for the first four years and interest only at low rates for the succeeding years. To start with, at least a sum of Rs. 25,000 should be advanced for the purpose.

There were very few industrial schools in North Travancore. To remedy that defect, more industrial schools should be opened in convenient localities in North Travancore.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Lona Ouseph, the weight of departmental opinion is against the establishment of a coir factory. There are already existing in the State coir factories and they are doing very well and therefore there is very little for the Government to do in the matter.

In the matter of further industrial schools, I think you are quite justified in asking for more schools in Northern Travancore. I shall have the question taken up and examined.

55. Development of Commerce.

MR. K. C. EAPEN (*Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum*) said that, without trade, a country could never progress. In Travancore, the annual increase of revenue from customs was about two lakhs of rupees That was mainly due to the development of commerce in the country. It was, however, regrettable that the subject of trade was not given a separate treatment in the Dewan's Opening Address.

He expressed his gratification for the act of the Government in commuting into money payment, the rent due on *Kandukrishi* lands.

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